

Biography

I am Maria A. Benton, Injury Prevention Coordinator of the Jemez Pueblo Tribe 5 year grant on Injury Prevention. Injuries from falls, cuts and piercing as well as injuries from motor vehicle crashes are areas of concern being addressed.

I come from a family of 8 brothers and sisters and have lived most of my life on the Zia Pueblo Reservation in New Mexico. I married a man from the Navajo Tribe and we have five children ranging from the ages of 38 to 22, and 4 grandchildren, ages-17-2.

My education has derived from working for 17 years, first as a Community Health Representative and later as an Environmental / Safety CHR. Through this employment I became involved in Injury Prevention. I have taken all three levels of Injury Prevention Training, Basic Grant Writing and numerous other health related topics.

Working with 7 different tribes, the biggest health issues are injuries of different sorts as well as the rising cost of injuries and dwindling funds. The I.H.S. Injury Prevention Specialist and Environmental Technicians were instrumental in providing information to assist us in addressing these issues. Through them, I became involved in injury prevention and the Tribal Steering Committee (TCS).

In 1998, I applied for TSC membership, with hopes of obtaining information to assist the tribes on accessing funding and education to preventing injuries. My expectation of being a member of the TSC is to better communicate information to the communities in the Albuquerque Area.